

MAKE YOUR HOME AND FAMILY FIRE SAFE

Kia haumaru tō kāinga me tō whānau i te ahi



WHAKARATONGA IWI

FIRE
EMERGENCY

NEW ZEALAND



Make your home and family fire safe

Fire and Emergency New Zealand is called out to fires in homes – just like yours – on average every three hours.

House fires destroy millions of dollars in property and possessions each year. The emotional cost of losing your home is much more.

Don't let this happen to you.

2 TO 3 MINUTES

is all it takes for a fire to destroy everything you own. The plastics, synthetic stuffing and other materials found in modern furnishings burn faster and give off more poisonous smoke than ever before.

30
SECONDS



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FACT In 80% of house fires we attend each year, smoke alarms were either not installed or not working.

Use a duster or vacuum cleaner to clean your smoke alarm.



Working smoke alarms save lives

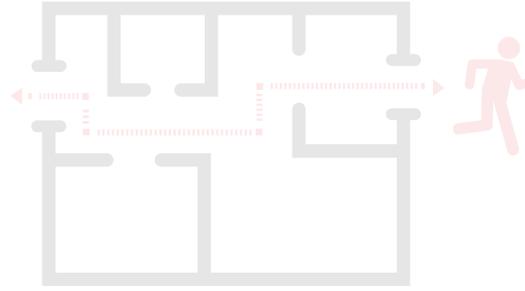


Fire and Emergency recommends photoelectric smoke alarms in every bedroom, living area and hallway in your home for the best protection.

Install them in the middle of the ceiling of each room.

- › **Photoelectric smoke alarms that are hard-wired** into your house's electrical circuits is the best option. You won't need to replace batteries but you'll need an electrician to install these.
- › **A photoelectric smoke alarm with a long-life battery** will provide up to 10 years of smoke detection. Photoelectric alarms more quickly detect most types of fires.
- › **If your smoke alarm has a replaceable 9-volt battery**, change the battery at least once a year. Replace batteries on the same day every year such as the beginning or end of daylight saving.
- › **Get more than one smoke alarm.** If you only have one, place it between the bedrooms.
- › **Do not install a smoke alarm in your kitchen.** Smoke and heat from cooking and the toaster can set off the alarm. Don't install them in the bathroom, laundry or garage either. You can buy heat alarms for these areas.
- › **Test your smoke alarm.** Press the test button, if it's working you will hear a loud beep or series of beeps. Use a broom handle if your smoke alarm is hard to reach.
- › **Keep your smoke alarms clean** and free of dust and spider webs to keep them in working order. Use a duster or vacuum cleaner to remove dust.
- › **Replace smoke alarms** after 10 years.
- › **Special smoke alarms** are available for people who are Deaf or are hard of hearing. Contact Deaf Aotearoa or Life Unlimited for more information.

Make an escape plan



It is terrifying to safely get everyone out of a burning house when it's hot, dark and smoky. That's why you need a plan to escape your home quickly and calmly in a fire.





Work out **two escape routes** for every room. Make sure that all doors and windows needed for escape are clear and open easily. If you have a two-storey home, think about a safe way to get to the ground level such as an escape ladder.

ALWAYS keep keys in deadlocks on doors and windows when you're at home so you can get out quickly in an emergency.

Make sure **everyone in your home knows your escape plan** for getting out of the house and off the property. If there's a fire, rather than panic, you will instinctively know what to do.

Pick a **meeting place** outside the home where it's safe to call 111. It could be your letterbox if it is far enough away.

Visit **www.escapeplanner.co.nz** to make your escape plan.

Tips for making your home fire safe



It's easy to make your home fire safe. Here are a few things you can do.

Cooking

- › **Never leave cooking unattended.** If you need to leave the room, even for a minute, turn the stove off.
- › **Don't drink while cooking,** especially if you're frying.
- › **Regularly clean your stove, range hood and filters.** Built-up oil and burnt food can cause fires. Filters can be cleaned in the dishwasher.
- › **Keep curtains, tea towels, oven mitts** and anything flammable well away from the cooking area. Wear tight fitting sleeves or roll them up when you are cooking.
- › If there's a **fire on your stove,** try (if you can), to turn the power or gas off at the mains.
- › **Never throw water on a frying pan that's on fire** or try to carry it outside. If you can, use a pot lid or a large flat object like a chopping board, or damp a tea towel and place it over the pan to starve the fire of oxygen.
- › **Remember** – don't install smoke alarms in the kitchen. Get a heat alarm instead.

FACT Alcohol is a contributing factor in many fatal house fires. **Don't drink and fry.**



FACT 25% of all house fires start in the kitchen.



Home heating

- › **Follow the 'heater metre rule'**. Keep everything at least one metre away from heaters and fireplaces. This includes people, furniture, curtains, bedding or clothes that you want to dry. Never place or hang wet laundry on a heater.
- › **Open fires should be screened** with a proper fireguard and never left unattended.
- › **Dispose of ashes safely.** Put them in a metal bucket with a lid, then thoroughly douse with water. Ashes can stay hot enough to start a fire for up to five days.
- › **Get your chimney checked and/or swept** each year.

Smoking

- › **Don't smoke when you're tired**, have taken medication or have drunk a lot of alcohol. Falling asleep with a lit cigarette could start a fire.
- › **Fully extinguish all cigarettes and matches** before you leave a room.
- › **Use a closed ashtray** to extinguish cigarettes.





IN A FIRE!

GET DOWN, GET LOW,

GET OUT — FAST!



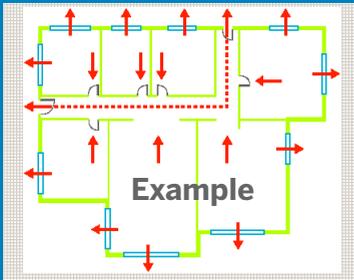
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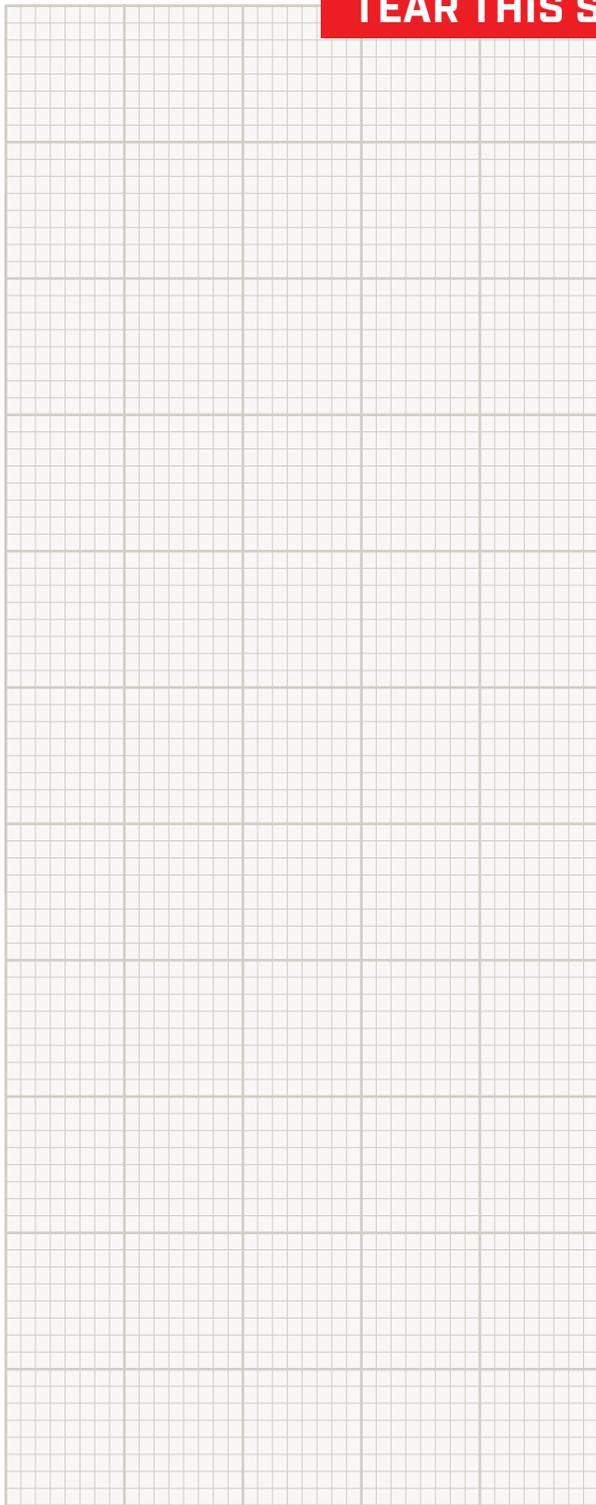
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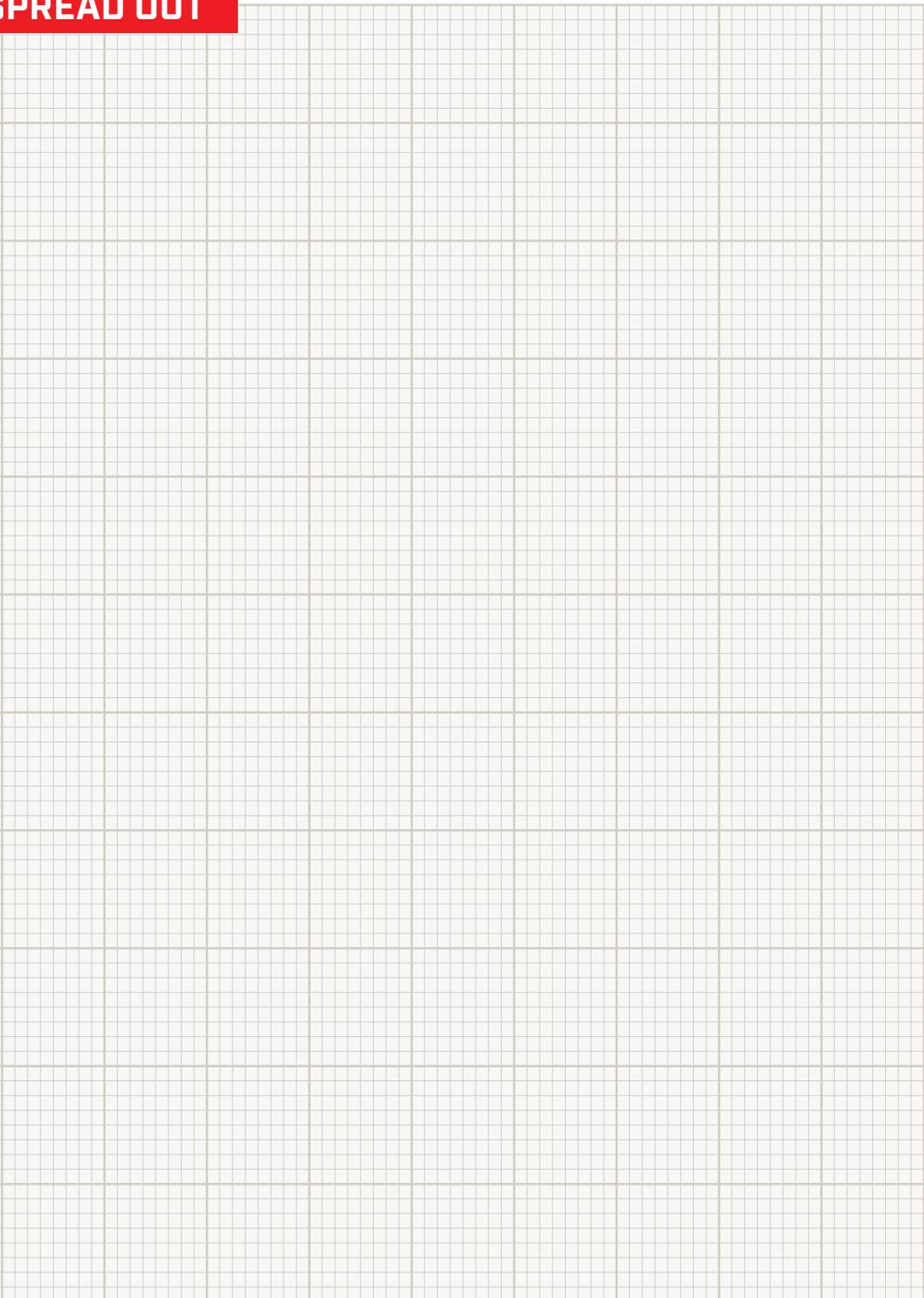
Escape plan grid

- 1 Start with a floor diagram of your home.
- 2 Always plan two ways out of each room.
- 3 Pick a meeting place outside the home. It could be your letterbox if it is far enough away.



ESCAPE MY HOUSE



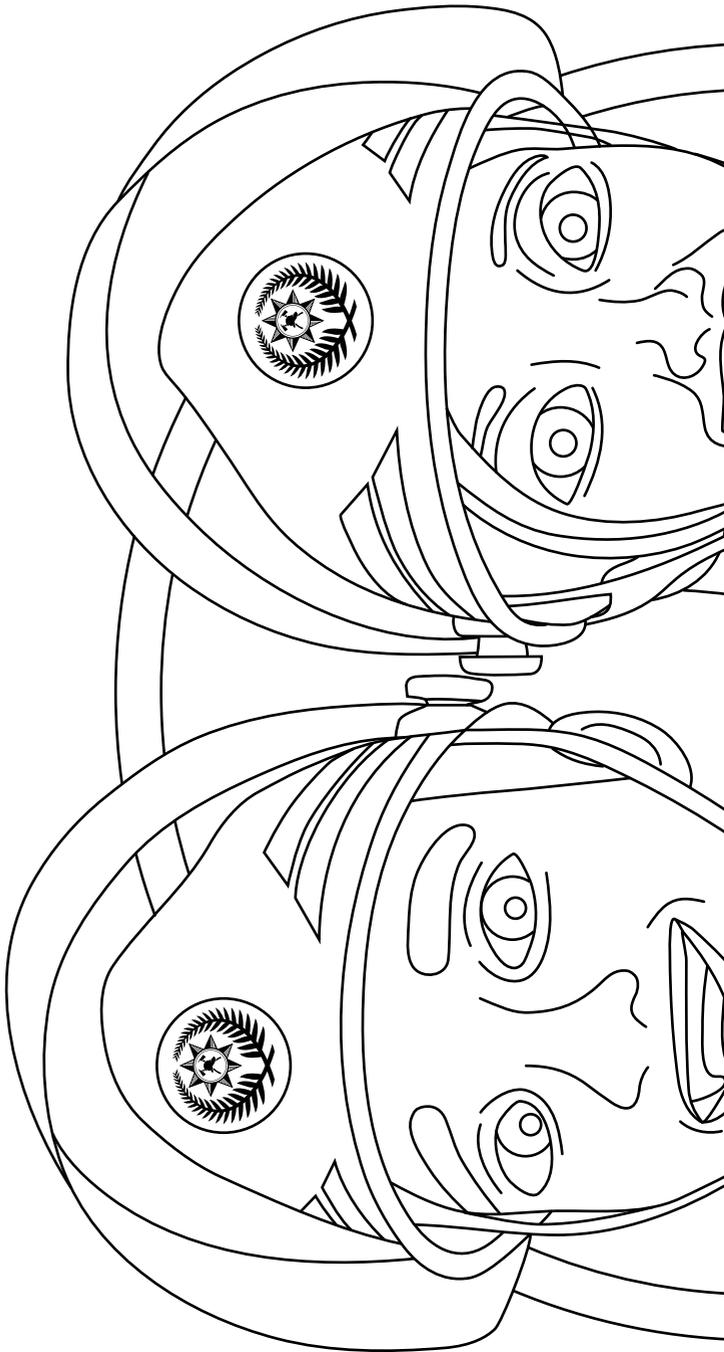


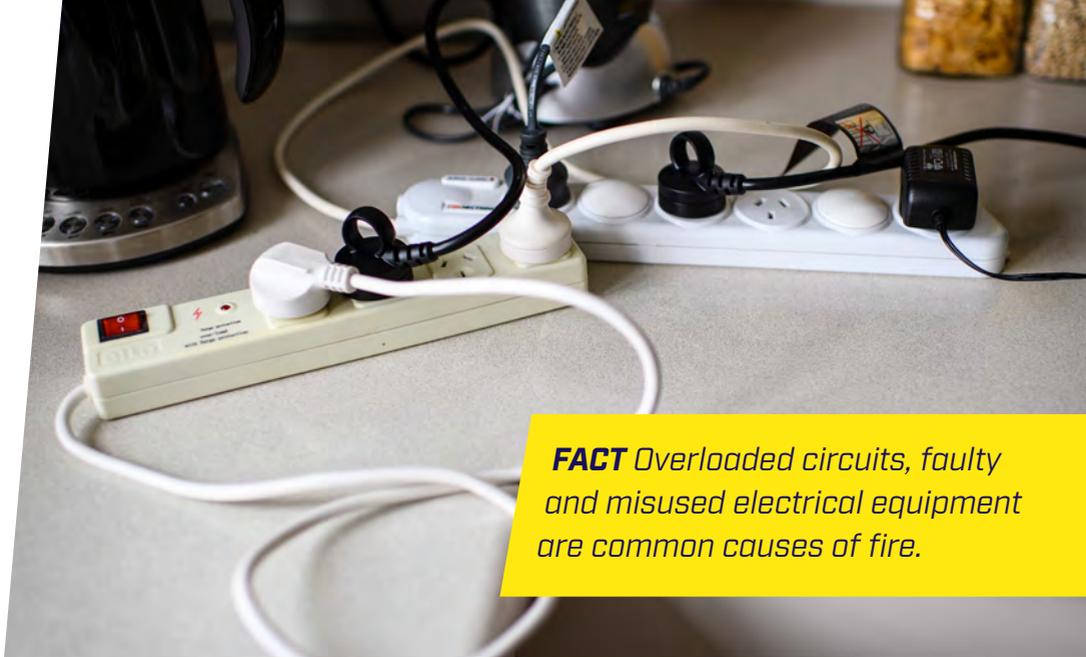


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FACT Overloaded circuits, faulty and misused electrical equipment are common causes of fire.

Electrical safety

- › **Power points** — Do not overload power points and multi-boxes with double adapters. Use only one appliance per power point.
- › **Electric appliances** — If you're concerned about the safety of electric blankets, heaters, irons or toasters, have them checked by an electrician. Avoid buying second-hand appliances. If you do, ensure they are certified as safe.
- › **Appliance cords** should be in good condition and not frayed.
- › **Extension cords are not designed** to be permanent replacements for your home's internal wiring. Don't put them under carpets or mats or use them when they are tightly coiled.
- › **Turn off and, where practical, unplug appliances** when not in use. Do not leave televisions on standby mode — switch them off.
- › **Make sure light bulbs are the appropriate wattage** for your light fixtures. Using a higher wattage bulb than what the fixture was designed for may cause over-heating and fire.
- › **Regularly clean electrical appliances** to prevent dust build-up.
- › Make sure **fans, heaters, televisions, clothes dryers and other electrical equipment** are in well-ventilated areas.

Electric blankets

- › **Worn and old electric blankets** can cause an electric shock, fire and possibly even death. If your electric blanket appears worn, have it checked by an electrician or replace it.
- › **Replace your electric blanket every five years.** Look for heat-protected models, which are safer.
- › **Roll, don't fold,** your electric blanket for summer storage.
- › Make sure the **electric blanket lies flat** on the bed and that controls or cords are not twisted or caught between the mattress and the base of the bed.
- › **Don't place heavy objects** on the bed while the blanket is on.
- › **Always switch your electric blanket off** before going to bed.



FACT *Static electricity, heat and a build-up of dust and lint can cause a fire.*

Clothes dryers

- › **Remove lint** from the filter after each use.
- › Ensure your dryer has **proper ventilation** and airspace around it.



Outdoor fires

- › Make sure you **have a hose handy** to extinguish any outdoor fires like BBQs, chimineas and fire pits.
- › Keep your fire at least **three metres** from anything flammable.
- › Some outdoor fires such as braziers and fire pits have **additional rules** and are banned during a prohibited fire season.
- › Visit **www.checkitalright.nz** to find out the current fire season and the rules for the type of fire you want to light.



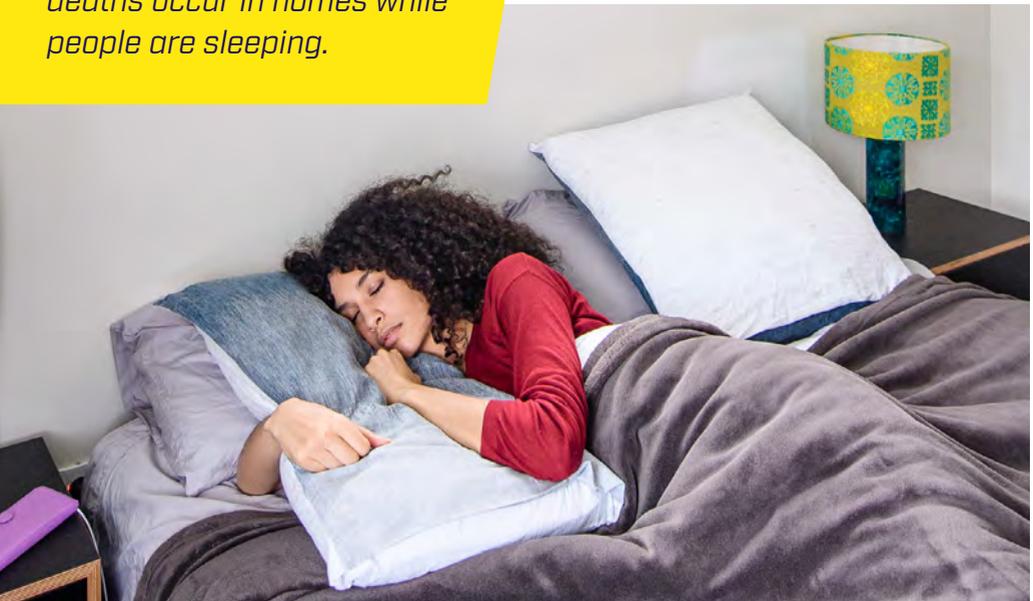
Going to bed

Never smoke in bed. Falling asleep with a lit cigarette could start a fire.

Do a **fire check** every night before you go to bed.

- › Make sure heaters, appliances and lights are **switched off**, except for night lights that you use for safety. Switch your television off at the wall – do not leave it in 'standby' mode.
- › If you have an open fire, **make sure the fire is out** and that you have a proper fire guard in place.
- › Confirm that **keys are in deadlocks**.
- › **Close any doors to the kitchen and living rooms** to stop a fire from spreading to bedrooms.
- › Keep a torch and phone **next to your bed**.

FACT *The majority of fire deaths occur in homes while people are sleeping.*



If there is a fire



If the fire is small (no larger than a rugby ball) and you think you can safely contain it, try to extinguish it. Call Fire and Emergency so we can make certain the fire is out.

If the fire is large and you feel unsafe, do not attempt to put the fire out. Get out – FAST!

If there are others in the house, shout 'FIRE! FIRE! FIRE!' and tell them to get out.

If the fire is well underway, crawl out of the house on your hands and knees. Heat and smoke rise, so it's easier to breathe and see at ground level. Smoke inhalation is a major cause of fire deaths.

If you can, close doors behind you as you exit – this slows the fire and smoke from spreading.

Use your mobile phone or go to a neighbour and call 111 immediately.

Keep well away from the house and NEVER re-enter it.

If you're not able to get out of the house, close the door of the room you are in and put a towel under it to stop smoke coming in. Go to the window and shout 'FIRE, FIRE, FIRE!'

FACT When fully ablaze, a house can reach 1,100°C. The body starts to shut down at 70°C.



We're here to help

Call your local fire station to schedule a visit.



Your local fire station is here to help. At no cost to you, we are happy to visit your home and:

- › Check existing smoke alarms to ensure they work and are in the right places. If your smoke alarm has replaceable batteries, we can help you to replace the batteries. You will need one 9-volt battery for each smoke alarm.
- › Install smoke alarms, if you need them. Check page 5 for details on what kind to buy and how many.
- › Help you make an escape plan so you can get out of your house quickly if you have a fire.

Call 0800 693 473 or your local fire station to schedule a visit. If you live in an area with a volunteer brigade, there may not be anyone at the station to take your call. Leave a message with your details and we'll call you back.



Visit our website for more details
www.fireandemergency.nz



Make Your Home Fire Safe

Use this checklist to spot risks or hazards that might cause a fire.

SMOKE ALARMS AND FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

- Install hard-wired or long-life photoelectric smoke alarms in every bedroom, living area and hallway.
- Use a heat alarm in your kitchen, bathroom or laundry. Smoke alarms in these locations are prone to false alarms.
- Test batteries every month.
- Dust or vacuum around smoke alarms regularly.
- Replace expired alarms. The expiration date will be on the underside or side of the alarm.
- Get a fire extinguisher or fire blanket and learn how to use them. Ask Fire and Emergency for advice

APPLIANCES

- Turn off appliances when not in use. If practical, unplug them at the wall as well.
- Second hand appliances should be tested and certified as safe by an electrician or gas fitter.
- Avoid overheating. Make sure there is good airflow around electrical equipment.

LEADS AND CORDS

- Plug in no more than one appliance per wall or multi-board socket.
- Never plug an adaptor or multi-board into another adaptor or multi-board.
- Make sure leads and cords are in good condition and not frayed.
- Never put extension cords under carpets or mats. Don't use them if they are tightly coiled.

HEATING

- Use the 'heater-metre rule.' Keep furniture, curtains, clothes and children at least one metre from heaters and fireplaces.
- Use a fireguard or spark-guard with open fires.
- Dispose of ashes in a metal bucket with a lid, then douse with water. Ashes can stay hot enough to start a fire for up to five days.

MATCHES, LIGHTERS AND CANDLES

- Always keep matches and lighters well out of reach of children.
- Use a candle stick holder, never leave lit candles unattended and keep them away from anything flammable.

KITCHEN & LAUNDRY

- Ensure the clothes dryer is in a well-ventilated location. Clean the lint filter after every use.
- Clean fats and burnt foods from stovetop.
- Clean range hood filters.
- Know how and when to use your fire extinguisher or fire blanket if you have one.
- Never leave cooking unattended.

ELECTRIC BLANKETS

- Replace electric blankets every five years.
- Replace worn blankets or have an electrician check them.
- Lay electric blankets flat on the bed and ensure the controls or cords are not twisted.
- Roll, don't fold, electric blankets for storage.
- Never leave the electric blanket on when you go to sleep.

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SERVING OUR PEOPLE**

www.fireandemergency.nz

